

Senate Resolution 81

By: Senators Seay of the 34th, Reed of the 35th, Butler of the 55th, Tate of the 38th and Brown of the 26th

A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing and commending Mr. Tyler Perry; and for other purposes.

2 WHEREAS, Mr. Tyler Perry was born on September 14, 1969, in New Orleans, Louisiana;
3 and

4 WHEREAS, Mr. Perry rose to overcome a childhood of physical abuse and poverty to
5 become one of the nation's most successful and creative African American writers and
6 directors of his time; and

7 WHEREAS, inspired by an *Oprah Winfrey Show* episode, Mr. Perry began his writing career
8 by documenting his emotions and memories as a means to release his inner feelings about
9 growing up in a house with an abusive father; and

10 WHEREAS, energized by the final product of his cathartic journal, Mr. Perry decided to
11 transform his struggles into a play called *I Know I've Been Changed* about adult survivors
12 of child abuse; and

13 WHEREAS, Mr. Perry was drawn to Atlanta, Georgia, in the early 1990's, where he
14 tirelessly worked several odd jobs to fund his dream of sharing his play with the world; and

15 WHEREAS, Mr. Perry's play debuted in 1992 at Atlanta's 14th Street Playhouse, but he went
16 on to struggle financially for several years to continue to bring his story to Atlanta and other
17 smaller southern cities, forced at one point to live in his car; and

18 WHEREAS, the determination and perseverance of Mr. Perry paid off in 1998 when his
19 creative vision and talent was finally recognized by the public, as an audience of more than
20 9,000 gathered at the Fox Theater in Atlanta to see his play; and

21 WHEREAS, doors opened for Mr. Perry after the success of his play, and he went on to
22 achieve even greater accomplishments with television shows like *Tyler Perry's House of*
23 *Payne* and *Meet the Browns* and movie sensations such as *Diary of a Mad Black Woman*,
24 *Madea's Family Reunion*, *Why Did I Get Married?*, and *The Family That Preys*; and

25 WHEREAS, this hard working writer, director, and producer has won such prestigious
26 awards as the Black Entertainment Television Comedy Awards for Outstanding Lead Actor
27 in a Film and Outstanding Writing for a Film and a Black Movie Award for Outstanding
28 Achievement in Writing; he has been nominated for Image Awards for Outstanding Writing,
29 Outstanding Directing, and Outstanding Supporting Actor in a motion picture and Black Reel
30 Awards for Outstanding Screenplay and Best Breakthrough Performance; and

31 WHEREAS, this talented and charismatic figure is an inspiration to others, as he has
32 demonstrated that with perseverance and hard work, dreams can be reached.

33 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE that the members of this body
34 join in recognizing the great work of Mr. Tyler Perry and extend best wishes on his future
35 projects.

36 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary of the Senate is authorized and directed
37 to transmit an appropriate copy of this resolution to Mr. Tyler Perry.